GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2721
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Fake Water Companies
Nishad Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that illegal water bottling units are active in the residential areas of several States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the bottled water supplied by any of these illegal units has been tested;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to take any action against such illegal units; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (f) : Madam, all Food Business Operators engaged in the production of mineral water/ packaged drinking water have to follow the standards of mineral water and packaged drinking water as prescribed under Regulation 2.10.7 and 2.10.8 of Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. Licenses and Registrations under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 are issued to units engaged in the production of Packaged Drinking Water and Mineral Water as per the provisions and conditions prescribed in Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

As per Regulation 2.3.14 (17) & 2.3.14 (18) of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on sales) Regulations, 2011 "No person shall manufacture, sell or exhibit for sale packaged drinking water and mineral water except under the Bureau of Indian Standards Certification Mark".

Annexure 2 of Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011, prescribes the necessary documents to be enclosed for new application for license under FSS Act, 2006, which also includes "Analysis report (Chemical & Bacteriological) of water to be used as ingredient in food from a recognized/public health laboratory to confirm the portability indicating the name of authorized representative of lab who collected the sample and date of collecting sample".

and

"Pesticide residues report of water to be used as ingredient in case of units manufacturing Packaged drinking water, packaged Mineral water and/or carbonated water from a recognized/public health laboratory indicating the name of authorised representative of Lab who collected the sample and date of collecting sample, including source of raw water and treatment plan".

Condition 12 of the Conditions of license under Annexure-3 of Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011, prescribes to "ensure testing of relevant chemical and/or microbiological contaminants in food products in accordance with these regulations as frequently as required on the basis of historical data and risk assessment to ensure production and delivery of safe food through own or NABL accredited /FSSA notified labs at least once in six months".

Regular surveillance, monitoring & sampling of food products is undertaken by State/UT Governments under FSS Act, 2006. As per the information available from State/UT Governments, the details of samples of Packaged Drinking Water and mineral water collected, tested, found not conforming and action taken during the year 2014-15 is enclosed at Annexure.

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